

CLAIMS

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claims 12 (previously amended) A cross-linked hyaluronic acid according to Claim 17 wherein the hydroxy groups are sulphated or hemisuccinylated.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously amended) A metal complex of a cross-linked hyaluronic acid according to Claim 17 in which the metal is selected from zinc, copper or iron.

Claim 15 (previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition useful as (a) a substitute for synovial fluid in the treatment of osteoarthritic conditions and for vitreous humor in the treatment of pathologies and side effects connected to ophthalmic surgery; (b) as a base for artificial tears formulation; (c) as a controlled release matrix of a medicament; and (d) as a healing and anti-adhesive agent, in which the principal active ingredient is a cross-linked hyaluronic acid according to Claim 17.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended) A cross-linked hyaluronic acid obtained by the reaction of the carboxylic groups of a molecule of hyaluronic acid cross-linked with another molecule of hyaluronic acid and a diamine of the formula $R_1NH-A-NHR_2$ which does not contain a hydrazine group NH-NH and wherein A is a linear C_2C_6 alkylene chain optionally substituted by hydroxy, carboxy, halogen, alkoxy and amino groups; a polyoxyalkylene chain $[(CH_2)_2-O-CH_2]_m$

wherein m is an integer from 2-10; 1,4 or 1,3 disubstituted benzene;
and R₁ and R₂, which are the same or different, are hydrogen,
C₁-C₆ alkyl, phenyl or benzene groups.